

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on May 23, 2006 (hereinafter Office Action of May 23). Claims 17, 18 and 20 are currently pending in the application, with Claims 17 and 18 being in independent form. By this Amendment document, Claims 21 and 22 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely Claims 17, 18 and 20 are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new subject matter, and are patentable over the prior art. In view of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the claims of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciatively thank Examiner Toledo for his time and consideration expended to Applicants' representative, Rosa B. Suazo, Esq., during a telephone interview conducted on June 16, 2006. During the interview, with reference to the Office Action of May 23, the rejections of Claims 17-20 in paragraph 3 and paragraphs 5-8, as well as the allowance of Claims 17, 18 and 20 in paragraph 9, were discussed. As stated by the Examiner during the interview, the Office Action of May 23 erroneously identified Claims 17-20 as being rejected. In fact, as stated by the Examiner during the interview, Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and Claims 17, 18 and 20 are allowed over the prior art of record. Claim 19 was canceled without prejudice in an Amendment dated March 28, 2006. Examiner Toledo kindly offered to send a Supplemental Amendment to Applicants representative indicating the correct status of the pending claims. However, Applicants choose to file the present Amendment at this time.

In the Office Action of May 23 Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kudelka et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0016398 A1). By the present amendment, the Applicants have canceled Claims 21 and 22

without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

The Applicants expressly reserve the right to present the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

With respect to Claim 19, as discussed hereinabove, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 19 was canceled in an amendment dated March 28, 2006. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn.

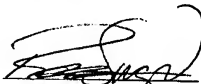
With respect to Claims 17, 18 and 20, Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that these claims are allowed over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted all claims now pending in this application, namely Claims 17, 18 and 20, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number indicated below.

No fee is believed to be due for the submission of this amendment. If any fees are required, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0458.

Respectfully Submitted,



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